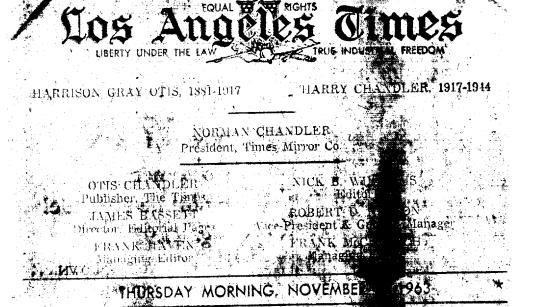
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TIMES EDITORIALS

CPYRGHT

ongress vs.

At a season to the Congressional year when abrasion tends to increase between the Executive and Legislative branches of government, the Otepka cuse tras come along to raise questions

So far, the case seems simple enough. Otto F Ofepka was fired from his job Tuesday as the State Department's chief seemely evaluations offacer. His dismissal was based on department rules. Otepka had worked 27 years for Stale.

The decision to the Otepka is said to have been weighed carefully by the Congress. administration. Presumably, the White But questions will arise, too, on the

House cleaned the move.

And now, S. Thomas J. Dodd, the Connecticut comocrat and a member of the subco mittee is asking Self-James Eastland (D-Miss.) to call the Senate Judiciary Committee into emergency meeting to consider the impli-cations."

No mortal ploys are likely to be

struck if all the implications are brought to light. But neither the State Department nor Congress itself is like-

tion with its image enhanced. The State Department, of course, is

pecially since it's more vulner on the defend . nevitably, the way State classifies, normation for security will arise, although no one can say how much information is classified

about how well each branch is checking and balanchis the other.

So far, the case seems simple and regulations forces are so encompassing that dimost any official in a position of responsibility is likely to transgress one of them—technically in the course of a day's business if charges that he find given confidential he has any contact with the public. information to the Senate subcommitted and mittedly. Otepka went a bit far. tee on internal security in violation of the But although her echnically is charged with violating security, his real offense reseems to have been that he gave aid and comfort to State's old enemy,

> Congress sees about investigat-without some limit, Congress asily but extend its authority to the defriment of the delicate checks and balances machinery. In the Otepka cuse, where it can be argued that the national security was involved, did the pocommittee go too far:

hatever the outcome, comfort can be taken from the fact that both Congress and the Executive are arguing basically over whose checks and bal-

In Sanitized Approved for Release #014-RDP75-00149R000600040099-7 is evidence that the machinery is work-